

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4352  
AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L RABAT 0579

EO 11652: XGDS-3  
TAGS: PDIP MO  
SUBJECT: COMMENTS ON AMBASSADOR JEAN BERNARD RAIMOND

REF PARIS 35741

1. IN LIGHT OF THE PROMINENT ROLE OF FRANCE IN MOROCCAN AFFAIRS, AMBASSADOR RAIMOND WAS A MAJOR FIGURE ON THE DIPLOMATIC SCENE IN MOROCCO SINCE PRESENTING HIS CREDENTIALS IN JANUARY 1974. DURING HIS TOUR, THERE WAS MARKED IMPROVEMENT IN FRANCO-MOROCCAN RELATIONS WITH THE RESOLUTION OF LAND EXPROPRIATIONS OF 1973 AND OTHER ECONOMIC DIFFERENCES DATING FROM THE COLONIAL ERA. SUCCESSFUL VISITS BY GISCARD TO RABAT IN MAY 1975 AND BY KING HASSAN TO PARIS IN NOVEMBER 1976 UNDERLINED THE INCREASING WARMTH OF BILATERAL RELATIONS. ALTHOUGH OFFICIALLY NEUTRAL ON THE SAHARA, GOF HAS CONTINUED TO BE PRIMARY SOURCE OF WEAPONS FOR THE MOROCCAN ARMED FORCES. IN ADDITION, FRENCH AIRCRAFT TRANSPORTED MOROCCAN SOLDIERS AND EQUIPMENT TO ZAIRE DURING THE SHABA CRISIS. MINOR IRRITANTS, SUCH AS THE EEC IMPOSITION IN JUNE 1977 OF QUOTAS ON TEXTILE IMPORTS FROM MOROCCO AND THE ARREST AND SUBSEQUENT EXPULSION FROM MOROCCO FOR SUBSERVISE ACTIVITIES OF SIX FRENCH COOPERANTS IN MAY 1977, OCCASIONALLY CLOUDED FRANCO-MOROCCAN RELATIONS DURING RAIMOND'S TOUR, BUT CAUSED NO SERIOUS HARM BECAUSE OF THE VERY CLOSE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN GISCARD AND HASSAN, AND MOROCCO'S  
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VALUE TO FRANCE'S POLICY IN FRANCOPHONE AFRICA. BY ALL ACCOUNTS, HE PERSONALLY PERFORMED HIS JOB ADMIRABLY WELL AND SERVED AS AN IMPORTANT INSTRUMENT IN STRENGTHENING FRANCOMOROCCAN TIES DURING THIS ACTIVE PERIOD.

2. RAIMOND IS DISCREET, UNOBTRUSIVE, AND TECHNICALLY HIGHLY COMPETENT. HE IS IN COMMAND OF ALL DETAILS OF FRANCO-MOROCCAN

RELATIONS, AND HAS DEVELOPED A GOOD FEEL FOR MOROCCO AND ITS LEADERSHIP. AN ENARQUE WHO THRIVES ON PRESSURE, HE HAS A REFLECTIVE, POLICY-ORIENTED MIND, A DECIDED ASSET FOR FOREIGN MINISTER DE GUIRINGAUD AS RAIMOND TAKES ON THE IMPOSSIBLE TASK OF SERVING AS CABINET DIRECTOR OF THE FOREIGN MINISTER AND DIRECTOR OF NORTH AFRICA AND THE MIDDLE EAST. WE HEAR THAT HE WILL HOLD THE FORMER POSITION ONLY THROUGH THE ELECTIONS.

3. ALTHOUGH THE UNFORTUNATE INCIDENT IN CHICAGO DURING POMPIDOU'S 1970 STATE VISIT STILL MAKES HIM SHUDDER, RAIMOND IS WELL-DISPOSED TOWARD THE UNITED STATES AND HAS MAINTAINED A CLOSE RELATIONSHIP AND FRANK DIALOGUE WITH THE AMBASSADOR, WITH WHOM HE WORKED ALMOST DAILY WHEN SERVING AS DIPLOMATIC ADVISOR TO FORMER PRESIDENT POMPIDOU IN THE ELYSEE.

4. IN OCTOBER 1975 RAIMOND MARRIED AN ATTRACTIVE YOUNGER WOMAN FROM LYON. SHE REPORTEDLY HOLDS A LAW DEGREE AND MET RAIMOND WHILE WORKING AT THE QUAI D'ORSAY. EARLIER IN 1977 SHE GAVE BIRTH TO TWIN GIRLS.

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## Message Attributes

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